

28. (New) The hub of claim 27, wherein the average thickness of the proximal portion is thicker than the average thickness of the distal portion.

29. (New) The hub of claim 27, wherein the thickness of the distal portion generally decreases distally.

30. (New) The hub of claim 27, wherein a plurality of grooves extend into the passage wall generally transversely toward the passage.

*or*  
*A.*  
31. (New) The hub of claim 27, wherein the width of the grooves increases distally.

32. (New) The hub of claim 27, wherein the thickness between the grooves decreases distally.

33. (New) The hub of claim 27, wherein the grooves extend through the wall into the passage.

34. (New) The hub of claim 30, wherein the grooves are disposed in a plurality of sets, each set including two grooves, the two grooves within each set being disposed generally within the same plane to define a transverse hinge in the strain relief.